

Virginia's Adopt A Stream Program



MISSION

The Virginia Adopt-A-Stream Program is a statewide litter education and clean up campaign that encourages the stewardship of the Commonwealth's water resources by citizens.

CITIZEN-BASED STEWARDSHIP

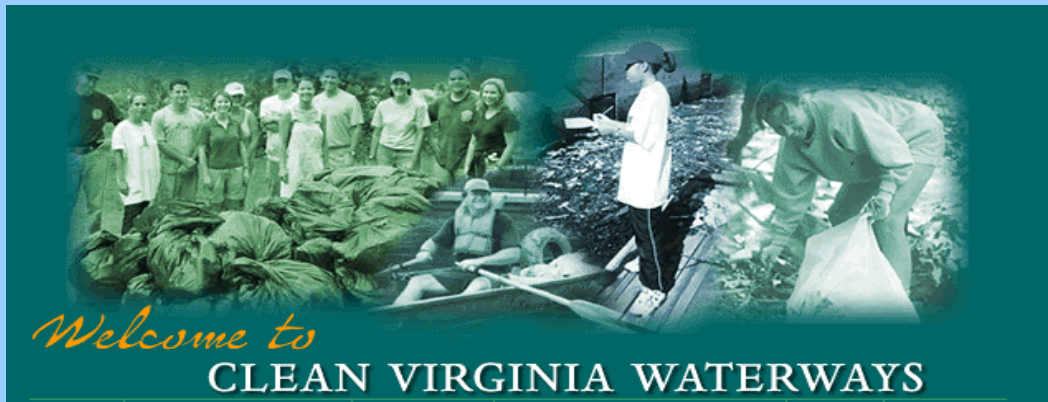
stewardship

the careful and responsible management
of something entrusted to one's care

ADOPT-A-STREAM PARTNERS



Virginia Association of Soil & Water
Conservation Districts



ADOPT- A - STREAM PROGRAM

History of the Program

In March 1998, State Delegate Harvey B. Morgan submitted a budget amendment to create a statewide Adopt-A-Stream Program, which was included under the Appropriation Act signed by Governor Jim Gilmore on May 20, 1998.

ADOPT- A - STREAM PROGRAM

Conducting a
stream
cleanup...



ADOPT - A - STREAM PROGRAM

- **Program background**
- **Site selection**
- **Organizing a clean up**
- **Obtain permission from property owners in the proposed cleanup section**
- **Project date**
- **Central meeting place**
- **Arrange for litter disposal**

Program Background

- Reduces litter entering Virginia's waters
- Promotes education and outreach
- Builds communities
- Encourages citizen stewardship of the Commonwealth's waterways

Organizing a Stream Clean up

- Establish an organizing committee
- Pick a site and date
- Visit the site
- Arrange for trash disposal
- Recruit volunteers
- Solicit support of local businesses
- Gather supplies
- Contact property owners

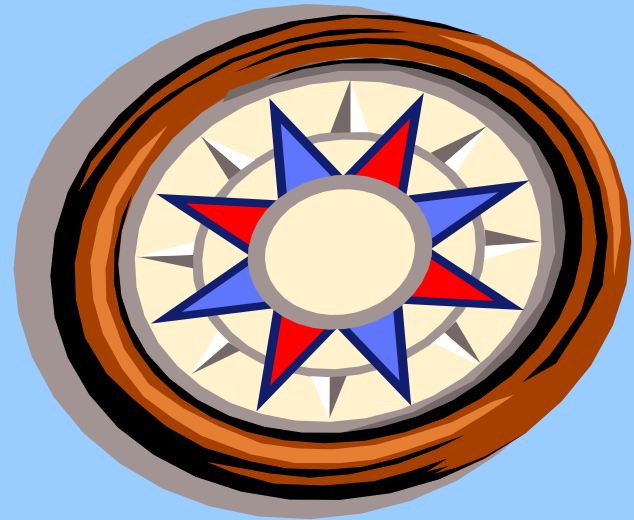
Project Date

- Determine date and time 8-10 weeks beforehand
- Saturday mornings are usually best
- Avoid holiday weekends
- Set a rain date



Site Selection

- Select a site that needs cleaning and is safe and accessible for volunteers.
- Scout the site to get an idea of the amount and type of litter volunteers will be exposed to, and to determine how much help you'll need to clean up.



Site Selection

- Walk the stream two weeks prior to the project date.
- Create maps to help crews locate accumulations of litter.



Arrange for litter disposal



- Arrange for the disposal and/or recycling of collected litter.
- Plan ahead and give specific directions to volunteers for where to put trash bags, recycled items, etc.
- Assign starting and stopping points for each group – maps are helpful.

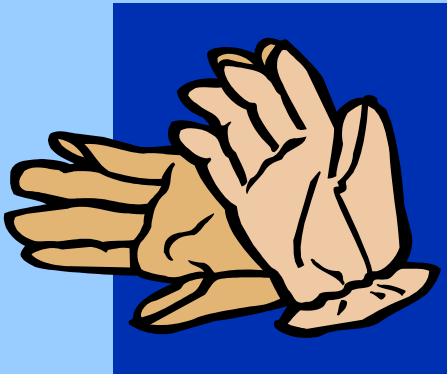
Recruit Volunteers

- Begin to recruit volunteers 6 weeks prior to the event.
- Establish a phone number and contact person for people to call to register for the event.
- Make sure volunteers know the details.



Gather Supplies

- Trash bags (provided by DCR)
- Safety vests (provided by DCR)
- Gloves (provided by DCR)
- First Aid Kit (recommended)



Obtain permission

- Make sure volunteers know not to trespass
- Obtain permission from property owners
- Invite property owners to join the clean up



Obtain permission continued...

- If property owners are not participating in the clean up, get written permission for volunteers to clean up trash along the stream where it passes through their property

Publicity

- Advertise the clean up project
- Make sure you include the details- Who? What? When? Where?
- Coordinate clean up events with other events such as Earth Day or another community clean up - your project will benefit from greater exposure

Project Preparation

- Train site captains
- Review safety information
- Complete site preparation – may need to flag off dangerous areas and places where access is denied.

Central Meeting Place

- Locate and reserve a central meeting placed 8-10 weeks in advance
- Location should be less than a 20-minute drive from the farthest stream section or litter accumulation



Central Meeting Place

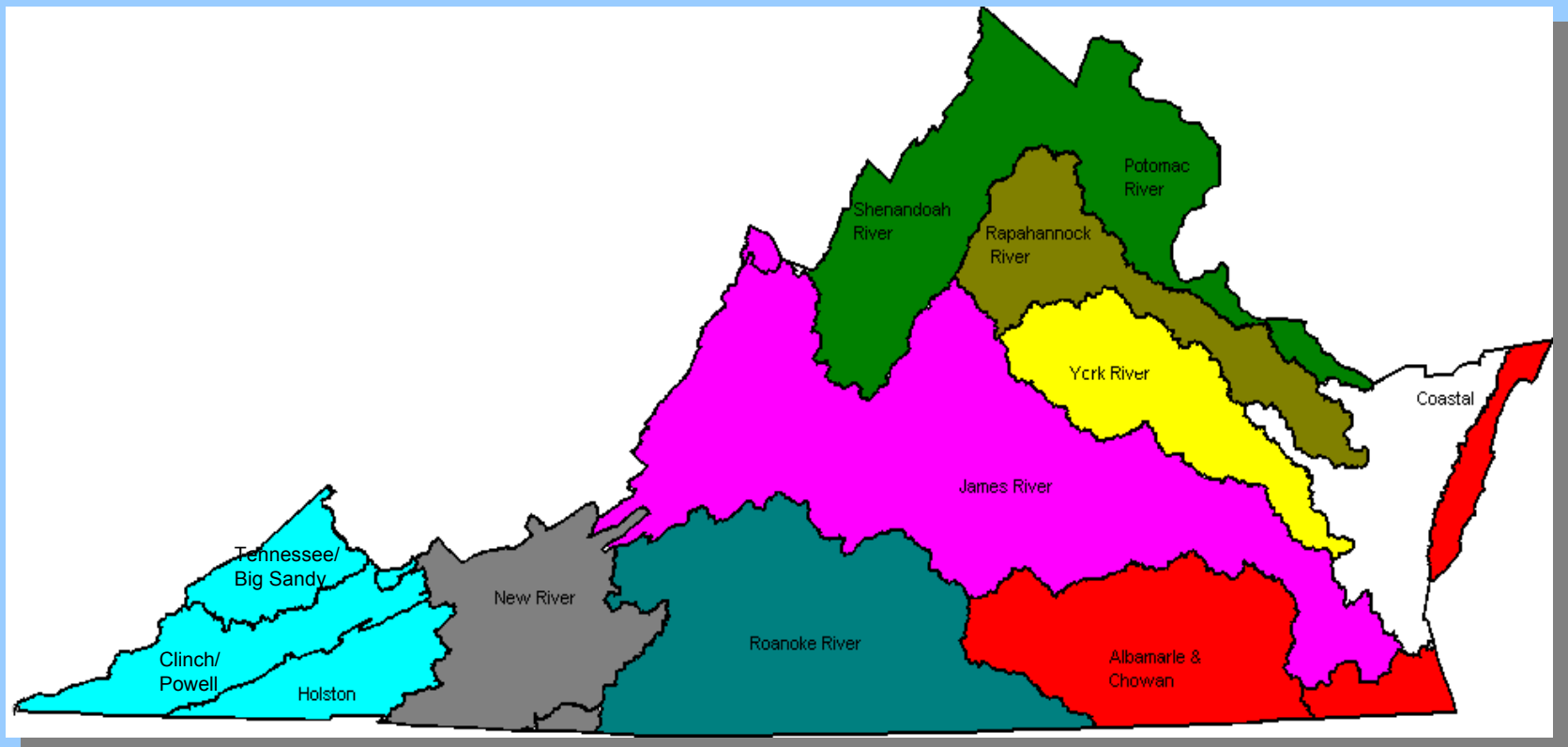
- Parking lots that are usually empty on Saturdays are a good choice
- Consider restroom access



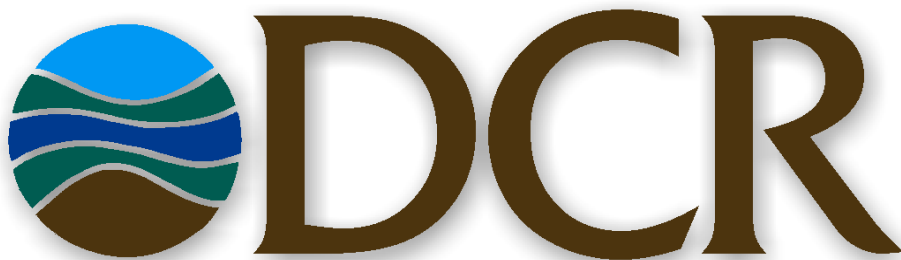
The Clean up

- Never work alone – team up
- Never drink from the stream
- Do not trespass
- Do not handle broken glass or other sharp objects
- Do not handle toxic items
- Report your collection information (data forms) back to DCR
- Have fun!

Virginia's Watersheds



Adopt A Stream Contact:
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on the web at:
www.dcr.virginia.gov/sw/adopt.htm



Department of Conservation & Recreation

CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

WATER



WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT!